SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 1 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

KEY WORDS

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

Bioassessment, a	quatic insects, benthi	c macroinvertebrates,	substrate
APPROVALS		0	,
APPROVED BY:	Kean Goh Ph.D.	The same of the sa	DATE: 1/13/2004
2	Environmental Mor	nitoring Branch Manag	gement
APPROVED BY:	1/5	-	DATE: 11/3/2003
	James Harrington Consulting Senior	Scientist, Dept. of Fisl	h and Game
APPROVED BY:	Carissa Ganapathy	apather	DATE: 1/12/04
	Environmental Mor	nitoring Branch Qualit	y Assurance Officer
PREPARED BY:	Adriana Moncada	Horada	DATE: 1/5/04
		itoring Branch Stude	nt Assistant
PREPARED BY:	Amount	My	DATE: 1/5-/04
	Juanita Bacey		
	/phvironmental Mor	nitoring Branch Env. F	Research Scientist

Environmental Monitoring Branch organization and personnel, such as management, senior scientist, quality assurance officer, project leader, etc., are defined and discussed in SOP ADMN002.

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 2 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) discusses the specific method for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) in wadeable surface waters of the Central Valley. It also includes procedures for determining the composition and embeddedness of stream substrates.

1.2 Definitions

- 1.2.1 X-site Sampling site as predetermined by the project leader per the study protocol.
- 1.2.2 Reach Area of the stream to be sampled, equivalent to 40 times the channel width. The length at minimum is 150 m and maximum is 500 m.
- 1.2.3 Transect A transverse line perpendicular to the flow of water.
- 1.2.4 Riffle Shallow section of a stream or river with rapid current and a surface broken by gravel, cobble or boulders.
- 1.2.5 Run Swiftly flowing stream reach with little surface agitation and no major flow obstructions.
- 1.2.6 Pool Still water, low velocity, smooth surface, usually deep compared to other parts of the channel.
- 1.2.7 Glide Water moving slowly, with a smooth, unbroken surface.
- 1.2.8 Sweep To move a net through the water, back and forth.
- 1.2.9 Kick A stationary sampling technique accomplished by positioning the net on the substrate and disturbing the substrate in a 1 square foot area (with feet), for approximately 30 seconds, upstream of the net.
- 1.2.10 Jab –Thrusting the net into the vegetation, holding the net still while rubbing the vegetation (1 ft² section), allowing any attached macroinvertebrates to fall into the net. When no flow is present,

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 3 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

sweep the area of the water with the net once the vegetation has been rubbed.

- 1.2.11 Substrate The bottom or base layer within the stream (i.e. sand, cobble, mud).
- 1.2.12 Thalweg The flow path, along the length of the stream channel, of the deepest water.

2.0 MATERIALS

- **2.1** 100-meter measuring tape
- **2.2** D-framed kick net (0.5mm mesh)
- 2.3 1-L plastic containers (labeled with study number, sample number and sample type)
- **2.4** Plastic white tray (i.e. 9 x 12 inches)
- **2.5** Sieve (0.5mm mesh)
- 2.6 Forceps
- 2.7 Denatured alcohol
- **2.8** Gloves with rubber palms
- 2.9 Water quality field data form
- **2.10** Physical habitat quality form
- 2.11 Bleach
- **2.12** 5-gallon bucket
- 2.13 Small pieces of white paper (approximately 2 X 2 inches) to use as labels
- 2.14 Wristwatch
- **2.15** Flags for transect identification
- **2.16** Meter stick
- 2.17 Pencils



SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 4 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

3.0 PROCEDURES

Instructions included here are modified from the following document: U.S.EPA, 2001, Western Pilot Study Field Operations Manual for Wadeable Streams.

3.1 Determining the Reach and Sampling Point

Each sampling location will consist of a reach of a stream or creek. In general, the reach will be 40 channel widths in length and include 11 cross-sectional transects positioned at equal intervals up and downstream of the x-site. The samples collected at each transect are used to characterize the community and habitat associated with the sampling reach.

- 3.1.1 To lay out the sampling reach, choose a spot of average width within approximately 5 stream widths upstream and downstream from the x-site.
- 3.1.2 If the stream width is less than 4 m, use 150 m as a minimum sample reach length.
- 3.1.3 If the stream width is greater than or equal to 4 m, multiply the average stream width by 40 m to obtain the reach length. Do not exceed a maximum reach length of 500 m.
- 3.1.4 The reach must be a minimum of 100 feet below or above any bridge or abutment that may influence the flow of the stream. The downstream end of the reach should be flagged as transect "A."
- 3.1.5 Proceed upstream from Transect A with the tape measure and flag the positions of 10 additional transects (labeled "B" through "K" as you move upstream) at intervals equal to 1/10 of the reach length. Enter the channel to make measurements only when necessary to avoid disturbing the stream prior to sampling.
- 3.1.6 Each transect needs to be sampled at one of three points, Left (L), Center (C), or right (R). Use a digital wristwatch and note the last digit on the watch. If the digit is 1 through 3, sample at the left

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 5 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

point, 4 through 6, sample at the center point, and 7 through 9, sample at the right point.

3.1.7 Beginning at transect A, face upstream and locate the sampling point as ¼ (left), ½ (center), or ¾ (right) of the stream width. Continue to the next transect and sample at the next point following the sequence (left, center, right, left, center, right, etc.) For example, if the sampling spot assigned to transect "A" was "Center", transect "B" is assigned "Right", transect "C" is "Left", and transect "D" is "Center", etc.

3.2 Sample Collection

A kicknet sample is to be collected from each of the 11 transects (Transects A-K) at the assigned sampling points (Left, Center, or Right).

- 3.2.1 At each sampling point, determine the habitat type and sample as described in sections 3.2.4 through 3.2.8.
- 3.2.2 After sampling at each sampling point pull the net out of the water. Immerse the net in the stream several times to remove fine sediments and to concentrate organisms at the end of the net. Avoid having any water or material enter the mouth of the net during this procedure.
- 3.2.3 Proceed to upstream transects, collecting a sample at each transect. When net becomes full, empty it as necessary into a plastic sample container.
- 3.2.4 Riffle/Run: If there is sufficient current in the area at the sampling point to fully extend the net, classify the habitat as "riffle/run."
 - 3.2.4.1 With the net opening facing upstream, position the net securely on the stream bottom to eliminate gaps under the frame.
 - 3.2.4.2 Sample a 1 ft² area in front of the net by holding the bottom of the kick-net against the substrate and then dislodge organisms by rubbing the substrates by hand (using rubber-palmed gloves if possible). Avoid larger rocks that prevent the net from sitting properly on the stream bottom.

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 6 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

- 3.2.4.3 Vigorously kick the remaining finer substrate for approximately 30 seconds
- 3.2.4.4 If there is too little water to collect the sample with the kick net, randomly pick up 10 rocks from the riffle and wash the organisms into net. The minimum water area required at each site is 1m² and a depth of 10 cm.
- 3.2.5 Pool/Glide: If there is insufficient current in the area at the sampling point to fully extend the net, classify the habitat as "pool/glide."
 - 3.2.5.1 With the net opening facing upstream, position the net securely on the stream bottom to eliminate gaps under the frame.
 - 3.2.5.2 Sample a 1ft² area. Pick up any loose rocks or other large substrate particles within the 1ft² area and hold them over of the net. Dislodge organisms by rubbing the substrate by hand (using rubber-palmed gloves if possible) into the net.
 - 3.2.5.3 Vigorously kick the remaining finer substrate while sweeping the net repeatedly through the disturbed area just above the stream bottom. Keep the net moving so that the organisms trapped in the net will not escape. Continue kicking the substrate and moving the net for 30 seconds.
 - 3.2.5.4 If there is too little water to collect the sample with the kick net, stir up the substrate with your gloved hands and use the net to sweep organisms from the water. The minimum water area required at each site is 1m² and a depth of 10 cm.
- 3.2.6 Snags: A tree or other woody debris that has been submerged for a relatively long period (not recent deadfall).
 - 3.2.6.1 Sample snags by jabbing the net into medium-sized snag material (sticks and branches), or the net may be placed downstream of the snag, then the snag may be rubbed or kicked to help dislodge organisms. Large logs should be avoided because they are generally difficult to sample adequately.

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 7 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

- 3.2.7 Vegetated banks: Submerged lower banks with roots and emergent plants should be sampled similarly to snags.
 - 3.2.7.1 Sample by jabbing the net into the habitat. The bank habitat may also be kicked to help dislodge organisms, but only after placing the net downstream.
 - 3.2.7.2 When no flow is present, sampling can be done by holding the net still under the vegetated bank then shaking or rubbing the vegetation in the water, allowing any attached macroinvertebrates to fall into the net.
- 3.2.8 Submerged macrophytes: Aquatic plants that are rooted on the bottom of the stream are seasonal in occurrence and may not be common in high-gradient streams.
 - 3.2.8.1 Sample submerged macrophytes by bumping or jabbing the net along the bottom of the stream in the rooted areas, avoiding sediments where possible.

3.3 All samples:

- 3.3.1 When BMI sampling is complete, remove as much detritus as possible from the net without losing any organisms.
- 3.3.2 Empty the contents of the net into the plastic containers. The sample material should not exceed 3/4 of the total container volume to ensure adequate preservation.
- 3.3.3 Invert the net and inspect the net for any organisms clinging to the mesh and use forceps if necessary to remove the organisms.
- 3.3.4 Fill the plastic containers no more than 2/3 full with denatured 95% EtOH. Gently agitate the container to ensure thorough mixing of alcohol and sample.
- 3.3.5 Place a label (written on white paper and in pencil) inside the container with the following information:
 - Stream name
 - Reach number or location

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 8 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

- Date/time
- Sampler name(s)
- 3.3.6 Complete a chain of custody (COC) form for each sample according to protocol and SOP ADMN006.00.

3.4 Determining the Substrate Composition

3.4.1 In each of the 11 transects (A-K), at 5 equally spaced points within each transect, visually estimate particle size according to table shown on Substrate worksheet and record (Attachment B).

3.5 Determining the Substrate Embeddedness

3.5.1 In each of the 11 transects (A-K), at 5 equally spaced points within each transect, visually estimate substrate embeddedness according to table shown on Substrate Embeddedness worksheet and record (Attachment B).

3.6 Information to Document for each Reach

- 3.6.1 Before leaving the stream, document the site description by mapping the sample reach and transect sampling points. The map should include habitat-types (see sections 3.3.4 through 3.3.8) and important structures (plants and attributes of the stream and bank area).
- 3.6.2 Complete the Physical Characterization, Substrate Composition and Embeddedness, Water Quality Field Data, and Physical Habitat worksheets (Attachments A through D).

4.0 MAINTENANCE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 Nets and any wading equipment used should be rinsed in a 1% bleach solution after use in each stream to avoid cross contamination of bacteria and invasive macroinvertebrates between streams.
- **4.2** When sampling is complete, inspect nets for tears or damage and repair as needed.

SOP Number: FSWA015.00 Previous SOP: None

Page 9 of 9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Instructions for sampling benthic macroinvertebrates in wadeable waters using the Modified U.S. EPA EMAP Method.

5.0 SAMPLE STORAGE

- **5.1** For long-term storage, samples should be regularly checked for alcohol loss and degradation of the sample.
 - 5.1.1 Within one week of sample collection, replace alcohol with new alcohol. A second and final replacement of alcohol should be conducted on the samples three weeks after sample collection. The samples can be stored up to one year in the final replacement alcohol.
 - 5.1.2 Inspect alcohol level in samples every three months and refill as necessary.
- 5.2 Samples will be stored in a nonflammable cabinet at less than or equal to 25° C, until sample disposal has been approved.

6.0 REFERENCES

Barbour, M.T., J. Gerritsen, B. D. Snyder, and J. B.Stribling. 1999. Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish, Second Edition. EPA 841-B-99-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Water: Washington D.C.

Harrington, J. and M. Born. 1999. Measuring the Health of California Streams and Rivers. Sustainable Land Stewardship International Institute.

U.S.EPA, 2001. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program – Surface Waters: Western Pilot Study Field Operations Manual For Wadeable Streams. Regional Ecology Branch, Western Ecology Div., Natl. Health and Env. Effects Research Lab.

Physical Characterization (Modified EPA multi-habitat method)

Lat:				Long:				
Elevation:			_		al habitat o	quality score	:	
Gradient:								
			<u> </u>					
0/			Avg.	=	1			
% canopy cover:								
			 					
			Avg					
$\underline{\text{Canopy cover}} = \text{Ta}$								
south, east & west)	and a	verage.	Total	reach c	anopy cove	er = the aver	age of	f these 11
numbers.								
			-					
Depth:								
	_		1					
D 41: 1	1 1		Avg		1	1		
Depth is measured	in thai	weg of	each t	ransect	and averag	ea		
Comments:								
Comments.	-							
Watershed feature	<u>es</u>	Desc	ription	Lo	cal waters	shed NPS po	ollutio	<u>on</u>
	<u>es</u>	Desc	ription		cal waters	shed NPS po	ollutio	<u>on</u>
Forest	es	Desc	ription	No			ollutio	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture	es	Desc	ription	No So	evidence	al sources	ollutio	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob	evidence me potenti vious sour	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial	<u>es</u>	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Watershed feature Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial Industrial	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial Industrial	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No Mo	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial Industrial	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No Mo	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters one oderate	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial Industrial	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No Mo	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters one oderate	al sources	_	<u>on</u>
Forest Field/Pasture Agricultural Residential Commercial	es	Desc	ription	No So Ob Lo No Mo	evidence me potenti ovious sour cal waters one oderate	al sources	_	<u>On</u>

Physical Characterization

(Modified EPA multi-habitat method)

Instream	features
----------	----------

• Stream width is considered to be of "typical" width within approximately 5 stream widths upstream and downstream of the center of the reach.

Reach length (m)	
Stream width (m)	
Sampling reach area	$(feet \times 0.3048m = meters)$
(m^2)	
Area in km^2 (m^2x1000)	$(yards \times 0.9144m = meters)$
Aquatic vegetation (Indicate the d	ominant type (%) and record the dominant species
<u>present)</u>	
Rooted emergent	Free floating
Rooted submergent	Floating algae
Rooted floating	Attached algae
Dominant species	
present	
Portion of the reach with aquatic	
vegetation	

Note: All water chemistry measurements, water and sediment samples are to be collected from the bottom of the reach.

Habitat Types (Indicate the % of each habitat type present)	Organic substrate components (Does not necessarily add up to 100%)		
Cobble	Substrate type	% Composition in reach	
Gravel	Detritus (Sticks, wood, coarse plant		
Mud	materials (CPOM))		
Sand and fine sediment	Muck-mud (Black, very fine organic (FPOM))		
Snags			
Vegetated Banks (undercuts & overhangs)	Marl (Grey, shell fragments)		
Submerged macrophytes			
Other			

Attachment B

	SUBSTRATE SIZE
Study #:Sampling Crew:	Date/Time:

PARTICLE SIZE CLASS (mm)	5 evenly spaced stabs per transect	5 evenly spaced stabs per transect		
	Tallies	Count		
BEDROCK (SMOOTH) (larger than a car)				
Bedrock (rough) (larger than car)				
Large Boulder 1000-4000mm (meterstick to car) Small Boulder				
250-1000mm (basketball to meterstick) Cobble				
64-250mm (tennisball to basketball)				
Coarse Gravel 16-64mm (marble to tennisball)				
Fine Gravel 2-16mm (ladybug to marble)				
Sand 0.06-2mm (gritty-up to ladybug size)				
Fines (silt, clay,muck, not gritty)				
Hardpan (firm, consolidated fine substrate)				
Wood (any size)				
Concrete/Asphalt Other				

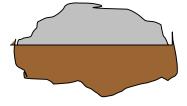
Code	Size Class	Size Range	Description
RS	Bedrock (Smooth)	>4000	Smooth surface rock bigger than a car
RR	Bedrock (Rough)	>4000	Rough surface rock bigger than a car
HP	Hardpan		Firm, consolidated fine substrate
BL	Boulders	>250 to 4000	Basketball to car size
CB	Cobbles	>64 to 250	Tennis ball to basketball size
GC	Gravel (Coarse)	>16 to 250	Marble to tennis ball size
GF	Gravel (Fine)	>2 to 16	Ladybug to marble size
SA	Sand	>0.06 to 2	Smaller than ladybug size, but visible as
			particles-gritty between fingers
FN	Fines	<0.06	Silt Clay Muck (not gritty between fingers)
WD	Wood	Regardless of	Wood & other organic particles
		Size	
OT	Other	Regardless of	Concrete, metal, tires, car bodies etc.
		Size	(describe in comments)

SUBSTRATE EMBEDDEDNESS

TRANSECT	EMBEDDEDNESS % *	(5 evenly spaced stabs p	per transect)	Average
A				
В				
С				
D				
Е				
F				
G				
Н				
Ι				
J				
K				

^{*} For particles larger than sand, examine the water surface for stains, markings, and algal coatings to estimate the average embeddedness. Embeddedness is the fraction of a particle's surface that is surrounded by sand or finer sediments on the stream bottom. By definition, sand, silt, clay, and mud are embedded 100 percent; bedrock and hardpan are embedded 0 percent.

Example: Fifty percent embedded.



Water Quality Field Data Sheet (Modified EPA multi-habitat method)

•	Date/Time: Location:		
Weather Conditions:			
GPS Coordinates			
Avg reach width	Reach Length		
Water Quality		Samples	#
Temperature		OP -WAT	
EC		TR – WAT	
DO		PY – WAT	
PH		BU – WAT	
Nitrate		OP -SED	
Phosphate		PY - SED	
Ammonia N		Metals - SED	
Turbidity			
Alkalinity			
Water odors: (i.e. normal, fishy, sewage)			
Water Surface Oils: (i.e. slick, sheen, globs, flecks,	none)		
Turbidity: (i.e. clear, slightly turbid, turbid, opaque,	stained)		
n:	agram of reach		

Diagram of reach

Water Quality Field Data Sheet

(Modified EPA multi-habitat method)

Discharge: Measured at one channel cross section (representative of the average channel width) within the sampling reach. Follow procedure as described in SOP FSWA009.00 VELOCITY SAMPLING DEPTH(S) Coef Obser-FPS At Dist. From .6 or FPS Mean Dis-WATER 0.6 0.2 0.8 Width Depth vation Area .2/.8 Point in Vertical charge DEPTH initial point Š Depth Inches to feet 0.9 0.5 0.08 0.6 0.17 1.1 0.7 0.25 1.2 0.7 0.33 1.3 0.8 0.42 1.4 0.8 0.50 1.5 0.9 0.58 1.6 1.0 0.67 1.7 1.0 0.75 1.8 1.1 10 0.83 1.1 1.9 11 0.92 1.2 12 1.00 1.3 2.1 1.3 2.2 2.3 1.4 Vertical 2.4 1.4 Surface 2.5 1.5 0.5 2.0 Coef. 2.6 0.5 2.1 ratio 2.7 0.5 2.2 w/d Coef 0.6 | 2.2 > 12.8 1.00 0.6 2.3 0.50 0.95 2.9 0.6 2.4 0.25 0.90 3.1 0.6 2.5 0.01 0.65 3.2 0.6 2.6 3.3 0.7 2.6 3.4 0.7 2.7 3.5 0.7 2.8 0.7 2.9 3.6 3.7 0.7 3.0 3.8 0.8 3.0 3.9 0.8 3.1

0.8 3.2

HABITAT ASSESSMENT FIELD DATA SHEET—LOW GRADIENT STREAMS (FRONT)

STREAM NAME	LOCATION		
STATION # RIVERMILE	STREAM CLASS		
LAT LONG	RIVER BASIN		
STORET#	AGENCY		
INVESTIGATORS			
FORM COMPLETED BY	DATE AM PM	REASON FOR SURVEY	

	_ Habitat	Condition Category				
	Parameter	Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor	
	1. Epifaunal Substrate/ Available Cover	Greater than 50% of substrate favorable for epifaunal colonization and fish cover; mix of snags, submerged logs, undercut banks, cobble or other stable habitat and at stage to allow full colonization potential (i.e., logs/snags that are not new fall and not transient).	30-50% mix of stable habitat; well-suited for full colonization potential; adequate habitat for maintenance of populations; presence of additional substrate in the form of newfall, but not yet prepared for colonization (may rate at high end of scale).	10-30% mix of stable habitat; habitat availability less than desirable; substrate frequently disturbed or removed.	Less than 10% stable habitat; lack of habitat is obvious; substrate unstable or lacking.	
each.	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0	
Parameters to be evaluated in sampling reach	2. Pool Substrate Characterization	Mixture of substrate materials, with gravel and firm sand prevalent; root mats and submerged vegetation common.	Mixture of soft sand, mud, or clay; mud may be dominant; some root mats and submerged vegetation present.	All mud or clay or sand bottom; little or no root mat; no submerged vegetation.	Hard-pan clay or bedrock; no root mat or vegetation.	
uate	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0	
rs to be eval	3. Pool Variability	Even mix of large- shallow, large-deep, small-shallow, small-deep pools present.	Majority of pools large-deep; very few shallow.	Shallow pools much more prevalent than deep pools.	Majority of pools small-shallow or pools absent.	
mete	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0	
Para	4. Sediment Deposition	Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than <20% of the bottom affected by sediment deposition.	Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 20-50% of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools.	Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 50-80% of the bottom affected; sediment deposits at obstructions, constrictions, and bends; moderate deposition of pools prevalent.	Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; more than 80% of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition.	
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0	
	5. Channel Flow Status	Water reaches base of both lower banks, and minimal amount of channel substrate is exposed.	Water fills >75% of the available channel; or <25% of channel substrate is exposed.	Water fills 25-75% of the available channel, and/or riffle substrates are mostly exposed.	Very little water in channel and mostly present as standing pools.	
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0	

HABITAT ASSESSMENT FIELD DATA SHEET—LOW GRADIENT STREAMS (BACK)

	Habitat	Condition Category			
Parameters to be evaluated broader than sampling reach	Parameter	Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor
	6. Channel Alteration	Channelization or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal pattern.	Some channelization present, usually in areas of bridge abutments; evidence of past channelization, i.e., dredging, (greater than past 20 yr) may be present, but recent channelization is not present.	Channelization may be extensive; embankments or shoring structures present on both banks; and 40 to 80% of stream reach channelized and disrupted.	Banks shored with gabion or cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted. Instream habitat greatly altered or removed entirely.
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	7. Channel Sinuosity	The bends in the stream increase the stream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight line. (Note - channel braiding is considered normal in coastal plains and other low-lying areas. This parameter is not easily rated in these areas.)	The bends in the stream increase the stream length 2 to 3 times longer than if it was in a straight line.	The bends in the stream increase the stream length 1 to 2 times longer than if it was in a straight line.	Channel straight; waterway has been channelized for a long distance.
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	8. Bank Stability (score each bank)	Banks stable; evidence of erosion or bank failure absent or minimal; little potential for future problems. <5% of bank affected.	Moderately stable; infrequent, small areas of erosion mostly healed over. 5-30% of bank in reach has areas of erosion.	Moderately unstable; 30-60% of bank in reach has areas of erosion; high erosion potential during floods.	Unstable; many eroded areas; "raw" areas frequent along straight sections and bends; obvious bank sloughing; 60-100% of bank has erosional scars.
	SCORE (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	9. Vegetative Protection (score each bank) Note: determine left or right side by facing downstream.	More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost all plants allowed to grow naturally.	70-90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well-represented; disruption evident but not affecting full plant growth potential to any great extent; more than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption obvious; patches of bare soil or closely cropped vegetation common; less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	Less than 50% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption of streambank vegetation is very high; vegetation has been removed to 5 centimeters or less in average stubble height.
	SCORE(LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width (score each bank riparian zone)	Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone.	Width of riparian zone 12- 18 meters; human activities have impacted zone only minimally.	Width of riparian zone 6- 12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal.	Width of riparian zone <6 meters: little or no riparian vegetation due to human activities.
	SCORE (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0

Total Score _____